

# TESTING PROGRAM

The information below describes the annual testing program planned for students in the Mansfield Public Schools.

Children in grades kindergarten through eight will take locally and commercially developed Literacy and Mathematical assessments that measure student mastery of grade level curriculum. These assessments are administered throughout the school year. Results are used to measure student progress and focus further instruction.

All students in grades three, four, five, six, seven and eight must be tested on an annual basis in accordance with state and federal law. State law requires that all public school students in grades three, four, five, six, seven and eight be tested in the spring of 2017. All children will be tested in English language arts/literacy and mathematics with the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Students in grades five and eight will also be tested in science with the Connecticut Mastery Test. Each school will develop and implement a schedule designed to maximize student achievement while minimizing disruption to the regular instructional program.

When testing is completed, the district will receive results (by law, on or before August 15 of the relevant year) for each student, classroom, school building and for the district as a whole. Information on individual students will be sent to parents and will also become part of the student's school records. The total amount of time for testing is approximately four - five hours depending on grade level but all Smarter Balanced Assessments are untimed so students are permitted to take as much time as they feel necessary.

As parents of a child to be tested, you need to know that:

- a) You may review results of the tests at any time after the district has received the results. It may be helpful to have the test results interpreted by an appropriate staff member (the principal, a counselor, school psychologist, or teacher). This can be arranged by making an appointment through the principal's office.
- b) When your child transfers from one level to another, to the Middle School or to E. O. Smith High School, test results are transferred as part of the Cumulative Record. If you wish to review this record, you may do so by following the Board of Education's policies and procedures regarding disclosure of/access to student records (you may contact the building principal for additional information).

While State assessments are important methods of academic measurement, they do not have any bearing on a child's progress report or report card grades. The following are some helpful hints for successful test taking:

- 1) Make every effort to have children attend school during regular scheduled testing. This will provide them with peer support during the testing process and minimize time devoted to make-up testing.
- 2) Children who have a full night's sleep are better equipped to maintain alertness through the morning testing period.
- 3) A nutritious breakfast is fuel for the brain as well as the stomach!

- 4) A parent who expresses confidence, empathy and humor can help a child maintain his or her perspective during the testing program.

We hope that this information and these suggestions will help make this testing period an easier time for you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the testing process, please contact your building principal or school guidance counselor.